



PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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G06F 13/00**H04L 12/54****H04L 12/58**(21) Application number: **06267016**(71) Applicant: **NEC SOFTWARE LTD**(22) Date of filing: **31.10.94**(72) Inventor: **ATSUMI MASAKI**(54) **ELECTRONIC MAIL REFERENCE
CONFIRMATION DEVICE**

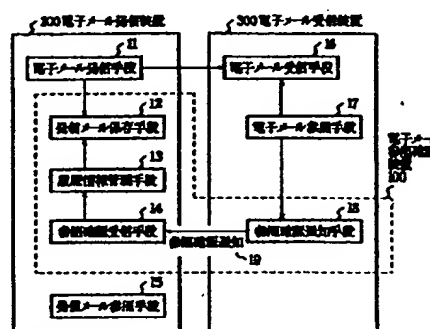
stored electronic sent mails.

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(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To confirm that a receiver refers to a sent mail on the origination side in an electronic mail system.

CONSTITUTION: The electronic mail reference confirmation device 100 has a sent mail storage means 12, a history information management means 13, and a reference confirmation receiving means 14 in the electronic mail system 200, and also has a reference confirmation informing means 18 in an electronic mail reception device 30. The sent electronic mail is passed to an electronic mail receiving means 16. When an electronic mail referring means 17 refers to the arrival mail, the sender side is informed by the reference confirmation informing means 18 that the electronic mail was referred to, with a reference confirmation report 19. The informed reference confirmation report 19 is received by a reference confirmation receiving means 15 and the reference is reflected in sent mail history information in a history information managing means 13. Therefore, an electronic mail user can know the address to which sent address information is sent and referred to only by referring to the history information of



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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The electronic-mail reference check equipment have a dispatch mail drop means save the mail which sent in the electronic mail system which has an electronic-mail sender and an electronic-mail receiving set, a destination hysteresis information-management means manage the hysteresis of the destination information according to individual of the sent mail, a notice means of a reference check notify an addresser of having referred to the mail which received in an electronic-mail receiving set, and a reference check receiving means receive the notice of a reference check from this notice means of a reference check.

[Claim 2] a claim -- electronic mail reference check equipment given in the 1st term -- setting -- the notice of a reference check from the notice means of a reference check -- a basis -- the electronic mail reference check equipment characterized by having said destination hysteresis information management means to update the hysteresis of ***** destination information.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] Especially this invention relates to the electronic mail reference check equipment which can check what the mail sent with the destination list of electronic mails which sent the document data created on the calculating machine on the equipment transmitted as an electronic mail was referred to for by the addressee about electronic mail reference check equipment.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the conventional electronic mail system, after referring to the mail which the addressee received, transmit e-mail as reply mail to an addresser, as indicated by JP,60-206244,A (electronic mail system), and it was visible to an addresser in a delivery check list of the answered mail or other common mails, and the intermingled form. Moreover, in the mail which specified and sent many destinations, it had to check whether the reply would have come back to all the destinations.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] In reply processing of the electronic mail system mentioned above, since a check chart, or the e-mail and common mail of the answered mail which were answered were checked, it was not able to check that there had been a reply at a glance. Moreover, it had the fault of having to check by performing setting [poke] reply mail to each destination of the mail sent also as dispatch.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention has a dispatch mail drop means to by_ which the sent mail can be saved in an electronic mail system, a destination hysteresis information-management means manage the hysteresis of the destination information according to individual of the sent mail, a notice means of a reference check notify an addresser of having referred to the mail received in the electronic-mail receiving set, and a reference check receiving means receive the notice of a reference check from this notice means of a reference check.

[0005] Furthermore, this invention has said destination hysteresis information management means to update the hysteresis of destination information based on the notice of a reference check from the notice means of a reference check, in electronic mail reference check equipment given in the 1st term of a patent claim.

[0006]

[Example] Next, this invention is explained with reference to a drawing.

[0007] Drawing 1 shows one example of this invention, and drawing 2 shows the dispatch mail identification information in one example of this invention.

[0008] It is the electronic mail system with which one example of this invention has the electronic mail sender 200 and the electronic mail receiving set 300 in drawing 1 . A dispatch mail drop means 12 by which the electronic mail sender 200 saves the electronic mail dispatch means 11 and dispatch mail, A hysteresis information management means 13 to manage the hysteresis information on dispatch mail, and a reference check receiving means 14 to receive the notice 19 of a reference check from the electronic mail receiving set 300, An electronic mail receiving means 16 to receive the electronic mail with which the electronic mail receiving set 300 is sent out from the electronic mail sender 200 including a dispatch mail reference means 15 to refer to dispatch mail, An electronic mail reference means 17 to refer to the received electronic mail, and a notice means 18 of a reference check to notify an addresser when the mail which the addressee received is referred to are included. Electronic mail reference check equipment 100 has the dispatch mail drop means 12, the hysteresis information management means 13, and the reference check receiving means 14 in the electronic mail sender 200, and has the notice means 18 of a reference check in the electronic mail receiving set 300.

[0009] Drawing 2 shows the configuration of dispatch mail identification information. Dispatch mail identification information consists of the sending agency address, Addresser ID, dispatch mail discernment, and destination discernment, and the sending agency address is the physical address with which a dispatch mail box exists. Addresser ID is ID of a discernment sake about the dispatch mail box in the physical address. The dispatch mail ID is ID for identifying the dispatch mail in a dispatch mail box uniquely. Destination discernment is for identifying uniquely the destination attached to dispatch mail within dispatch mail.

[0010] Next, actuation of one example of this invention is explained with reference to drawing 5 . Addresser side 51 uses the electronic mail dispatch means 11, and sends e-mail (5-1). An electronic mail consists of destination information, a body of a document, and dispatch mail identification information. Dispatch mail identification information includes the sending agency address, Addresser ID, the dispatch mail discernment ID, and the destination discernment ID, as shown in drawing 2 . Hysteresis information (the body of an e-mail document and receiver's address list information) is saved in the dispatch mail drop means 12 at coincidence (5-2). If an electronic mail reaches the target electronic mail receiving set 300, the electronic mail receiving means 16 in the electronic mail receiving set 300 will be passed (5-6). When an addressee refers to the mail which arrived with the electronic mail reference means 17 (5-7), the notice means 18 of a reference check transmits the notice 19 of a reference check to an addresser side, in order to

notify that the electronic mail was referred to based on dispatch mail identification information (5-8). As for the notified notice 19 of a reference check, the reference check receiving means 14 in the electronic mail sender 200 notifies reception (5-3) and dispatch mail identification information into the hysteresis information management means 13. A hysteresis information management means 13 by which the notice was received from the reference check receiving means 14 updates the applicable destination information on the applicable mail saved in the dispatch mail drop means 12 (5-4), and reflects having been referred to. An addresser can know that e-mail was referred to by using the dispatch mail reference means 15 and referring to hysteresis information (5-5).

[0011] Drawing 3 and drawing 4 divide into the back before receiving the notice of a reference check the condition of the electronic mail saved within the dispatch mail drop means 12, after being sent. All hysteresis information is in the condition of the reference sheep immediately after sending the electronic mail 31 sent for two or more pieces of destination (hysteresis) information 32. When the notice 33 of a reference check to the destination B of an electronic mail 31 arrives there, the destination which corresponds by the dispatch mail discernment ID and destination discernment in the notice 33 of a reference check is found out, the destination (hysteresis) information 32 on an electronic mail 31 is updated like the destination (hysteresis) information 42 on drawing 4 , and the notice of a reference check is reflected.

[0012]

[Effect of the Invention] Although the document which the electronic mail user usually sent was performing the check of having arrived correctly, it had to check using means of communications, such as a telephone, to get to know whether the mail is actually referred to or it is not referred to. This invention is effective in the ability to know at a glance whether the hysteresis information on the saved dispatch mail is only referred to, and what was sent to which destination to the destination information which sent is referred to.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the dispatch mail identification information in one example of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing showing the condition of an electronic mail of having been sent before the notice arrival of a reference check.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing showing the condition of an electronic mail of having been sent after the notice arrival of a reference check.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing showing the outline flow of the processing in one example of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

11 Electronic Mail Dispatch Means

12 13 Hysteresis information management means

14 Reference Check Receiving Means

15 Dispatch Mail Reference Means

16 Electronic Mail Receiving Means

17 Electronic Mail Reference Means

18 Notice Means of Reference Check

19 33 Notice of a reference check

31 41 Electronic mail A (body)

32 42 Destination (hysteresis) information

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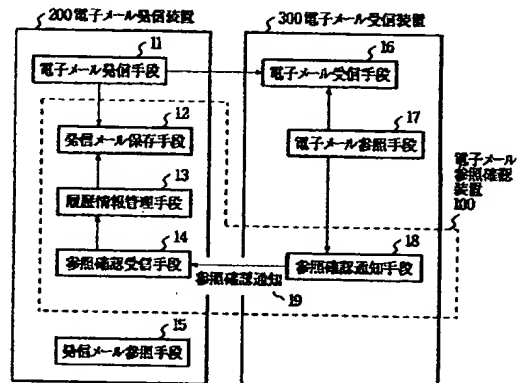
(54) 【発明の名称】 電子メール参照確認装置

(57) 【要約】

【目的】 電子メールシステムで発信したメールを受信者が参照した事を発信者側で確認できる。

【構成】 電子メール参照確認装置100は、電子メールシステム200内に発信メール保存手段12と、履歴情報管理手段13と、参照確認受信手段14を持ち、電子メール受信装置300内に参照確認通知手段18を持つ。発信された電子メールは、電子メール受信手段16に渡される。到着したメールを電子メール参照手段17で参照を行った時に参照確認通知手段18により電子メールが参照されたことを参照確認通知19により発信者側に通知する。通知された参照確認電文19を参照確認受信手段15が受け取り履歴情報管理手段13内の発信メール履歴情報に参照された事を反映する。

【効果】 電子メール利用者は、保存された発信メールの履歴情報を参照するだけで、発信した宛先情報に対しどの宛先に送付したものが参照されているかを知ることができる。



知するために参照確認通知 19 を発信者側に送信する (5-8)。通知された参照確認通知 19 は電子メール発信装置 200 内の参照確認受信手段 14 が受け取り (5-3)、発信メール識別情報を履歴情報管理手段 13 内に通知する。参照確認受信手段 14 から通知を受けた履歴情報管理手段 13 は、発信メール保存手段 12 内に保存されている該当メールの該当宛先情報を更新し (5-4)、参照された事を反映する。発信者は、発信メール参照手段 15 を利用し履歴情報を参照 (5-5) することにより、メールが参照されたことを知ることができる。

【0011】図 3 及び図 4 は、発信された後に、発信メール保存手段 12 内で保存される電子メールの状態を参照確認通知を受信する前と後にわたったものである。複数件の宛先 (履歴) 情報 32 にて発信された電子メール 31 は発信された直後、履歴情報が全て参照未の状態となっている。そこへ、電子メール 31 の宛先 B に対する参照確認通知 33 が到着した場合、参照確認通知 33 内の発信メール識別 ID および宛先識別により該当する宛先を見つけだし、電子メール 31 の宛先 (履歴) 情報 32 は、図 4 の宛先 (履歴) 情報 42 のように更新され参照確認通知が反映される。

【0012】

【発明の効果】電子メール利用者は、通常発信した文書が正しく到着していることの確認は行っていたが、実際にそのメールが参照されているか、参照されていないか*

*を知るには電話等の通信手段を利用して確認しなければならなかった。本発明は保存された発信メールの履歴情報を参照するだけで、発信した宛先情報に対しどの宛先に送付したものが参照されているかを一目で知る事ができる効果がある。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】本発明の一実施例を示す図である。

【図 2】本発明の一実施例における発信メール識別情報を示す図である。

【図 3】参照確認通知到着前の発信された電子メールの状態を示す図である。

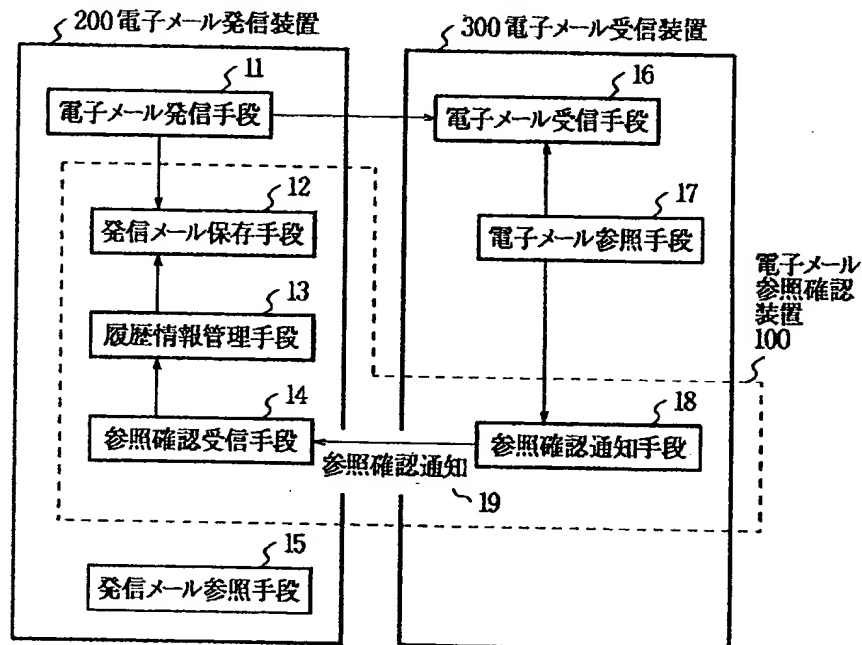
【図 4】参照確認通知到着後の発信された電子メールの状態を示す図である。

【図 5】本発明の一実施例における処理の概要フローを示す図である。

【符号の説明】

- 11 電子メール発信手段
- 12, 13 履歴情報管理手段
- 14 参照確認受信手段
- 15 発信メール参照手段
- 16 電子メール受信手段
- 17 電子メール参照手段
- 18 参照確認通知手段
- 19, 33 参照確認通知
- 31, 41 電子メール A (本体)
- 32, 42 宛先 (履歴) 情報

【図 1】



【図2】

発信メール識別情報			
発信元アドレス	発信者ID	発信メール識別ID	宛先識別ID

【図4】

電子メールA 発信メール識別ID	42		
	宛先A	参照未	宛先識別ID(a)
	宛先B	参照済み	宛先識別ID(b)
	宛先C	参照未	宛先識別ID(c)

	宛先X	参照未	宛先識別ID(x)

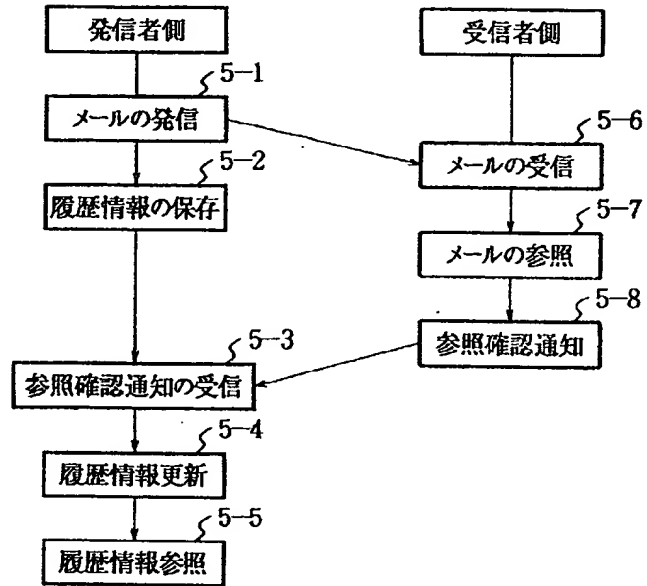
【図3】

電子メールA 発信メール識別ID	32		
	宛先A	参照未	宛先識別ID(a)
	宛先B	参照未	宛先識別ID(b)
	宛先C	参照未	宛先識別ID(c)

	宛先X	参照未	宛先識別ID(x)

33 参照確認通知
電子メールA
宛先B
宛先識別ID(b)

【図5】



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